

West Indies - Dutch & British

1921 - 1935

188

WEST INDIES

Dutch & British

MISCELLANEOUS

1921 - to 1935

File # 188

West Indies - Dutch & British

1921-1935

188

See also other packets  
under

Trinidad  
Antigua  
Grenada  
etc - etc

# AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.

SUBJECT BRITISH WEST INDIES (1)

Bulletin No. 250

TO NEW YORK FROM WASHINGTON

F.O.C.P.R.  
MAR 29 1921

New York  
March 29, 1921

DATE March 22, 1921.

## MOVEMENT FOR A UNIFORM CURRENCY FOR BRITISH GUIANA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Consul Chester M. Davis,  
Georgetown, British Guiana,

In line with the general movement toward federating the various British West Indian colonies and British Guiana is the movement for a universal currency for these colonies recently launched in British Guiana.

A largely attended public meeting was held in Georgetown on February 3, 1921 which was addressed by Lt. Col. Ivan Davson O.B.E., a resident of the colony, the Hon. Cecil Clementi, Colonial Secretary, and others in reference to suggested plans for a common currency.

The currency in use in British Guiana at present consists of : (a) Bank notes of the value of \$5.00 and over issued by the Colonial Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada. These notes also bear upon their face a statement of their equivalent in pounds sterling, the \$5.00 note for instance being equivalent to 20 shillings 10 pence. (b) Government currency notes of the values of \$1.00 and \$2.00. (c) British silver and copper coins as circulates in England with the addition of a silver four-penny piece known locally as a "bit". (d) English gold and Bank of England notes are valid of course but are not in circulation to any extent.

It will be readily seen that the use of the dollar currency simultaneously with the small change in shilling and pence is productive of much delay and confusion in the ordinary financial transactions of daily life. The matter is somewhat further complicated by the use of the "bit" (four pence of eight cents). The use of this coin is a relic of the Dutch occupation of the colony. Four "bits" are equal to a "guilder" and while there is no such coin as a "guilder" in circulation yet the term is in common use among the laboring classes and in the markets.

The form of currency of which Col. Davson urged the adoption was the "pound and mil scheme" the basis of which consists in three successive sub-divisions of the pound, each of which becomes a unit of account and is represented by a coin. One tenth of a pound is a florin, for which a coin already exists. One tenth of a florin is 2 4/10 pence for which it is proposed a new coin should be issued and that a smaller coin equal in value to .24 of a penny also be issued to be known as the "mil" or "mite".

The system of notation advocated employs the florin as the integer unit followed by decimals.

Mr. Clementi, the Colonial Secretary, in commenting on the remarks of Col. Davson said that he agreed to the idea of a uniform West Indian currency but that he thought the idea of a political federation between the West Indies and British Guiana impracticable as the problems of this colony were quite different to those confronting the other colonies. He stated that he thought the time was now opportune for a conference of Colonial Treasurers with a view to ascertaining between themselves the possibility of a joint scheme for submission to a committee in London for the institution of a common West Indian currency.

OTTAWA

BRITISH WEST INDIES

O.P.R.  
MAR 29 1921

March 28, 1921.

We enclose you herewith copy of a report which we have received regarding the movement for uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We are aware that the matter is not entirely new and that it has already been talked of by some of the Banks in Canada now issuing notes in the West Indies, - but thought that perhaps there might be something in this which may prove of interest to you.

We shall be glad to hear what you have to say on this subject.

What do you think of informing B.W. & Co. of the contents of this report and having them see what they can find out as to what has been done, if anything, at home.

---

Manager Foreign Department.

FWG/IW

# AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.

SUBJECT

BRITISH WEST INDIES

C.P.R.  
APR 7 1921

APR -4 1921

TO NEW YORK FROM OTTAWA

DATE

April 1st, 1921.

Ottawa

We have your letter of the 28th ultimo together with report regarding the movement for uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We have heard of this movement from time to time but from what we can gather it is not making any great headway, and it is likely to take a long time to get action on account of the local jealousies between the different Colonies.

We discussed the matter yesterday with the Manager of the Foreign Department of the Royal Bank of Canada which, as you know, does a large business in these Islands, and he told us that there would be no immediate developments. As a matter of fact, the Bank is now putting through an order for new notes to be circulated in the Bahamas, and last year they ordered an entirely new issue of notes for a number of their other branches in the West Indies.

We see no harm in keeping B.W. & Co. informed about the matter although we are inclined to think when the time comes the order for new notes will probably be placed in Canada on account of the activities of the various Canadian Banks in the West Indies.

CGC:EGG

*John G. Brown*  
General Manager.

RECEIVED



M

OTTAWA

BRITISH WEST INDIES.

O.P.R.  
APR 7 1921

April 6, 1921.

We acknowledge your letter of the 6th inst. under this heading and thank you for the information contained therein.

So as to be quite sure that we were fully in touch with the situation we have written London asking them to find out anything they could as to whether anything has been done there or not.

---

FWG/IW

Manager Foreign Department.

*f*  
BRITISH WEST INDIES

C.P.R.

APR 7 1921

LONDON

April 6, 1921.

OTHER COPY IN  
PACKET

We enclose herewith copy of a report on the matter of uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We have taken this matter up with our Ottawa Office and are in receipt of a reply from them reading:-

"We have your letter of the 28th ultimo together with report regarding the movement for uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We have heard of this movement from time to time but from what we can gather it is not making any great headway, and it is likely to take a long time to get action on account of the local jealousies between the different Colonies.

We discussed the matter yesterday with the Manager of the Foreign Department of the Royal Bank of Canada which, as you know, does a large business in these Islands, and he told us that there would be no immediate developments. As a matter of fact, the Bank is now putting through an order for new notes to be circulated in the Bahamas, and last year they ordered an entirely new issue of notes for a number of their other branches in the West Indies."

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We will be interested in hearing anything you may be able to find out as to what has been done about the matter at the conference of Colonial Treasurers as to the possibility of a joint scheme for submission to a committee in London, for the institution of a common West Indian Currency.

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FWG/IW

DUPLICATE SENT

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd.

Subject British West Indies.

C.P.R.  
MAY 18 1921 C.P.R.  
MAY 9 1921

London

to

New York

Date April 25th 1921.

We duly received your letter of April 6th, and I append  
a copy of a report from our Sales Department on the subject.

OTHER COPY IN  
PACKAGE

thatt

COPY

19<sup>th</sup> April 1921.

REPORT FROM SALES DEPARTMENT.

C.P.R.  
MAY 9 1921  
C.P.R.

MAY 18 1921

re BRITISH WEST INDIES.

I went down to-day to see Mr. Deakin of the Crown Agents, for the Colonies, and he gave me the following facts--

1. That nothing was yet known 'officially' about the institution of a Common West Indies Currency.
2. That he had heard scraps of information about the matter but that it was yet too early to give anything definite.
3. Mr. Deakin promised that as soon as there was anything definite to report he would get into touch with us.
4. He confirmed that a new issue of notes had lately been made to Branches in the West Indies by the Royal Bank of Canada.

BRITISH WEST INDIES

LONDON

May 12, 1921.

C. P. R.

MAY 13 1921

OTHER COPY IN  
PACKET

We acknowledge your letter of April 25th, - together  
with the report from your Sales Department in connection with this  
matter, - for which kindly accept our thanks.

FWG/IW

DUPPLICATE SENT

OTTAWA

BRITISH WEST INDIES

May 12, 1921.

C.P.R.  
MAY 13 1921

The following is a copy of a report sent us by B. W. & Co., which was made by their Sales Department under date of April 19th, on the above matter:-

"I went down to-day to see Mr. Deakin of the Crown Agents, for the Colonies, and he gave me the following facts:-  
1. That nothing was yet known "officially" about the institution of a Common West Indies Currency.  
2. That he had heard scraps of information about the matter but that it was yet too early to give anything definite.  
3. Mr. Deakin promised that as soon as there was anything definite to report he would get into touch with us.  
4. He confirmed that a new issue of notes had lately been made to Branches in the West Indies by the Royal Bank of Canada."

Manager Foreign Department.

IW

# AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.

SUBJECT BRITISH WEST INDIES

TO NEW YORK FROM OTTAWA

DATE May 16th, 1921.

*file*

C.P.R.

Ottawa

MAY 17 1921

MAY 17 1921

We wish to thank you for your letter of May 12th with report from B.W. & Company regarding the matter of uniform currency.

Since last writing you we have discussed this matter with some of our friends in the Canadian Bank of Commerce who have just entered the banking field in the West Indies. They tell us that the move for uniform currency is still in the initial stages, and that a great many difficulties will have to be overcome before anything definite comes out of it.

CGC:EGG

*Caporwan*  
General Manager.



RECEIVED  
M

*W. D. Mac*

February 9, 1925.

Mr. Gullett's letter to Mr. Cowan, answering his of December 30th.

re : Mr. Poussette, Canadian Trade Commissioner  
and possible bank-notes issues by Islands  
of the West Indies

both Mr. Gullett's and Mr. Cowan's letters  
sent to Mrs. Worcester for filing  
in OTTAWA letter-files.

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ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET FLUCTUATIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

American Junk N. Co  
City

In Reply Please Refer to No. W

Nov 29 - 35

Export Inquiry for West Indies, Samples required:

Please furnish for above inquiry 1/2 doz - 1 lb specimens (various)  
of Stock Certificates; medium priced.

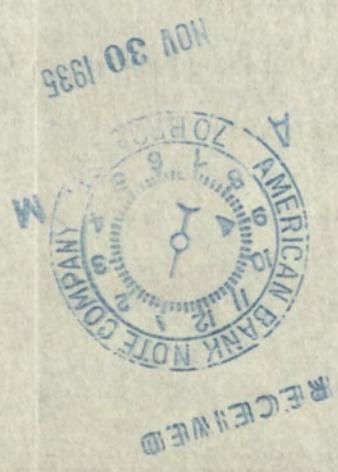
Payment: If order results, prompt cash with order.

Diehl & Company  
2 West 89th Street  
New York

C



NOV 30 1935



C. N. R.  
DEC - 4 1935

December 3rd, 1935.

Messrs. Diehl & Company,  
2 West 89th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sirs:-

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 29th, reference W, concerning an inquiry for stock certificates.

As each order we receive is treated individually and the documents are designed and prepared in accordance with the desires of the customer, it is impossible for us to quote prices without having further details of what is wanted. If you could let us know the class of work desired, that is whether the certificates are to be entirely printed from steel engraved plates or by lithography, or a combination of these, or typed, also the approximate size of the documents desired, as well as the approximate amount of text to appear thereon, we could then prepare a quotation. If this is found acceptable we could then present specimens accordingly.

Awaiting your further advices, we remain,

Yours very truly,

Manager Foreign Department.

JWB:grl